

# SENATE—Friday, April 6, 2001

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWNBACk, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, our Creator, Sustainer, loving heavenly Father, it is awesome to us that You have chosen, called, and commissioned us to be Your blessed people. We thank You for the times we trusted You and received Your blessings of wisdom, strength, and determination. Now hear our longing to know and do Your will in the final negotiations on the budget. There is so much on which we do agree; show us how to come to creative compromise in the issues on which we do not agree.

Give us clear heads and trusting hearts. May we earn a new confidence from the American people by the way we press on expeditiously and with excellence. Now we commit ourselves anew to You. With confidence we thank You in advance for a successful day of debate on the issues before us. When votes are counted may we neither be grim over defeat nor gloat over victory but pull together as Americans who put You and our Nation's good above all else. In Your all-powerful name. Amen.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWNBACk led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 6, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SAM BROWNBACk, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWNBACk thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

## RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

## RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Mexico.

## SCHEDULE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the final amendments to the budget resolution. There will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on any of the amendments proposed.

There are, for the information of Senators, between 30 and 40 amendments to be considered during today's session. We are working with Senators on both sides to see which amendments can be accepted, which will require rollcall votes, and perhaps which we will not be required to take action on at all.

Senators should be aware that all votes after the first vote will be limited to 10 minutes. Therefore, Members should stay in the Chamber if possible between votes. We are working to vote on final passage by 2:30 or 3 p.m.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, we have looked at the amendments overnight. We still have 42 amendments pending. Between the two sides we have 42 amendments pending. That does not count the leadership wrap-up amendments or the debate on those amendments. So realistically we would be talking about 16 hours of straight voting unless we are able to find some give in the good hearts of our colleagues. I am going to turn to my side of the aisle and urge colleagues on my side to please relent in the interest of getting the business of the Senate done on this budget resolution.

Senator REID and I have gone to our colleagues and asked them to please refrain from pushing their amendment to a vote. We understand every Senator has a right to take his or her amendment to a vote, but if everyone insists on their absolute right, we are going to be here 16 hours. Truthfully, it would probably be more than that because we have not been able to do three votes an hour.

That is the reality of the situation we confront. We urge our colleagues to

try to work with us as the morning proceeds and to reduce amendments.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CONRAD. I am happy to yield.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Just for the record, would the Senator do me the favor of emphasizing this amendment dealing with veterans' health care benefits is an amendment from yesterday? I have, indeed, withdrawn my other two amendments, just so colleagues will know that. Will the Senator amplify that?

Mr. CONRAD. I am pleased to say the amendment of the Senator from Minnesota was actually scheduled for last night for a vote and it was held over because of a parliamentary situation that developed last evening. So I am not making this request of the Senator from Minnesota. He has been patient. He has been one who has cooperated and dropped amendments, which we appreciate very much.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Does the chairman wish we go to a quorum call or go to the vote?

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, let me suggest we have three or four Senators we want to talk with on the phone. We may significantly change our numbers. We do not have anything like those—we are one-third of your number or one-fourth.

I believe we ought to proceed. I believe Senator BOND is ready on our side with a second-degree.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation? I understood we were going to have votes at 9:30?

Mr. DOMENICI. We are ready to go. We will get an amendment up and be ready to go.

## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEARS 2001—2011

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H. Con. Res. 83, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011.)

Pending:

Domenici amendment No. 170, in the nature of a substitute.